The Government, based on the recommendations of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Pharmaceuticals) and the Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission, the Government have drafted a National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which has been circulated to various stakeholders seeking their comments. Based on the comments received the Government is likely to finalize the new Policy shortly.

Some of the salient recommendations of the national Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 (Part-A), which contains issues other than statutory price control pertaining to schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the common man are:

1) Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana for the BPL families.
2) Larger allocation would be made for National Illness Assistance Fund.
3) State Illness Assistance Funds would be set up in all states with financial assistance from Central Government.
4) Revolving Funds for BPL families would be set up in all the Central Government hospitals.
5) States would also be asked to set up revolving funds in all the government hospitals for free treatment of BPL families.
6) In order to increase the reach of poor people to these funds District Level Revolving Fund would also be maintained The quantum of the District Level Revolving Fund would be Rs. 1.00 crore and this amount would be provided by the Central Government.
7) Rajasthan model of Medicare Relief Societies to be replicated in all the states.

Increase in price of life saving drugs

†1211. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to high cost of some life saving drugs, general public is not in a position to buy the same;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that these drugs became costly with the connivance of higher authorities in his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) (a) to (d) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not make any distinction between Life Saving drugs and other drugs. As per the present Pharma Pricing Policy, the 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the national Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), as per provision of Para 7 of DPCO, 95, which are quite transparent giving little scope of connivance at any level. In case, there is any violation of the approved/notified price of a Scheduled formulation, action is taken under the provisions of the DPCO, 95.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc., the NPPA monitors the prices of medicines as per monthly Retail Audit Reports of ORG-IMS Research Pvt. Ltd. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

Fertilizer production

1212. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fertilizers produced in the country during the last three years, unit-wise;

(b) the subsidy sanctioned and given to the manufacturing units during the said period, unit-wise;

(c) the total quantity of fertilizers imported during the said period;

(d) whether some private trading companies were also allowed to import fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details of quantity and subsidy distributed to these non-manufacturing fertilizer companies during the said period?